

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 27 are cancelled, and claims 1, 3-5, 9, 21, 23-25, 29, and 32 are amended.

The Applicant has carefully and thoughtfully considered the Office Action and the comments therein. For the reasons given below, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

1. In the Office Action on page 6 in section 7, the Examiner states that claims 10-13, 15-20, and 31-40 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing these claims.

2. In the Office Action on page 6 in section 8, claims 7 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 7 has been cancelled, and claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 7. Further, claim 27 has been cancelled, and claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 27. Hence, claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims, claims 2-6, 8, 9, 14, 22-26, and 28-30 are allowable.

3. In the Office Action on page 2 in section 1, claim 32 is objected to due to an informality. Claim 32 is amended as suggested by the Examiner.

4. In the Office Action on page 2 in section 3, claims 3-5, 7, 9, 23-25, 27, and 29 are rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 7 and 27 are

cancelled. Claims 3-5, 9, 23-25, and 29 are amended and comply with the statutory requirements.

5. In the Office Action on pages 2-5 in section 2, claims 1-6, 8-9, 14, 21-26, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,575,844 to Kosuge et al. Because amended claims 1 and 21 recite allowable subject matter, as discussed above, and because claims 2-6, 8-9, 14, 22-26, and 28-30 are thus dependent from allowable claims, this rejection is moot.

THEREFORE, because all objections and rejections have been overcome, it is submitted that claims 1-6, 8-26, and 28-40 are allowable, and such allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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